

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: Dental Providers
Managed Care Plans
Regional Administrators
CSO Administrators

Memorandum No. 01-49 MAA
Issued: June 27, 2001

For Information Call:
1-800-562-6188

From: James C. Wilson, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration

Subject: Vendor Rate Increase and Policy Changes for Dental-Related Services

Effective with dates of service on or after July 1, 2001, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will implement a legislatively authorized vendor rate increase of two and one-tenth percent (2.1%) for dental services. MAA is applying the vendor rate increase amounts allocated for children's and adult's dental programs to specific procedures, rather than across the board, to address reimbursement issues and concerns expressed by stakeholders regarding certain aspects of the dental program.

Changes being implemented by MAA include:

- Higher rates for intraoral, bitewing, and panoramic films;
- Higher rates for selected restorative procedures for children and adults;
- Higher rates for root canal therapy for children;
- Orthodontic rate increases;
- Rate increases for tooth extractions;
- Restructuring of the dental anesthesia reimbursement policies and payment levels (involving ADA codes only); and
- Restructuring of the behavior management policies and payment levels.

The list of dental-related procedure codes with rate changes effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2001, is attached. If a procedure code is not listed in the attachment, the rate remains unchanged.

Replacement pages

Replacement pages for your Dental Program Billing Instructions, dated April 1999, are being mailed separately.

Please bill MAA your usual and customary fee. Payment will be the lesser of the billed amount or the maximum allowable fee. Remember that MAA's payment is payment in full, and you may not bill the client for the balance.